

Application of Christopher Tzann-en Szeto, Ser. No. 09/930,878, Filed August 15, 2001  
Reply to Final Office Action  
Attorney Docket No. 50269-0584

### CLAIMS

The following listing of Claim replaces all prior versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:  
  
transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant ~~messenger~~ messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
  - a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
  - c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application;receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant ~~messenger~~ messaging application; and

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activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

2. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the transmitting instant messaging application is an eligible instant messaging application.
3. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier is stored on a node comprising the receiving instant messaging application.
4. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier has expired.
5. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including downloading the selected instant messaging environment from a source that stores the selected instant messaging environment.
6. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the instant messaging environment identifier is transmitted with an instant message.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies a background for [[a]] the history window on said receiving instant messaging application.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies an animation for [[a]] the history window on said receiving instant messaging application.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain words are included in the instant messaging conversation a-message.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain combinations of words are included in the instant messaging conversation a-message.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain emoticons are included in the instant messaging conversation a-message.

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12. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a link.
13. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a watermark.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that an instant messaging environment identifier is sent.
16. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that a certain function contained in an instant messaging environment is executed.
17. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application comprising:  
receiving the user interface command; and  
processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment.
18. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment

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includes accessing a version of the user interface command that is redefined by the instant messaging environment.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment includes executing instructions specified by the instant messaging environment and then executing the user interface command.
20. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command appends text to a history window and wherein the predetermined instant messaging environment changes the manner in which the text appears in the history window.
21. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command is processed by a browser window.
22. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command is processed by a browser window.
23. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 22 wherein the user interface command is contained in hidden frame.

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24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
- transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant ~~messenger~~ messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
  - c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application;
- receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger messaging application; and
- activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

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25. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment comprising a first instant messaging application configured to:
- transmit an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment; and a second instant messaging application configured to:
- receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the ~~receiving~~ second instant ~~messenger~~ messaging application; and
- activate the selected instant messaging environment in the ~~receiving~~ second instant messaging application;
- wherein an instant messaging conversation between said first instant messaging application and said second instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said first instant messaging application and a history window on said second instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
- a) how said second instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
- b) the appearance of the history window on said second instant messaging application; and
- c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said second instant messaging application;

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26. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:  
transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant ~~messenger~~ messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
- b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
- c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application;

wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant ~~messenger~~ messaging application;

retrieve a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and



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activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
- selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments; and
- transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant ~~messenger~~ messaging application, wherein  
an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant  
messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is  
displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging  
application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging  
application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at  
least one of:
- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the  
instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant  
messaging application; and
  - c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said  
receiving instant messaging application;

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wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:  
receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant  
~~messenger~~ messaging application;  
retrieve a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant  
messaging environment identifier; and  
activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant  
messaging application.

28. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:
- a memory configured to store a set of instant messaging environments;
  - a processor configured to select the instant messaging environment from the set of  
stored instant messaging environments; and
  - an interface configured to transmit an instant messaging environment identifier  
corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment, wherein an  
instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging  
application and a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a  
history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a  
history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein  
the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
    - a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the  
instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

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b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant  
messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said  
receiving instant messaging application.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of implementing an instant  
messaging environment comprising:

receiving an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant

messenger messaging application;

retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant

messaging environment identifier; and

activating the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging

conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and said

receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on

said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said

receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant

messaging environment affects at least one of:

a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the  
instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant  
messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said  
receiving instant messaging application.

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30. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
- retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and
- activating the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:
- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
  - b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
  - c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.
31. (Currently Amended) A system for implementing an instant messaging environment comprising:
- an interface configured to receive an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messenger messaging application;

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a memory configured to store instant messaging environments; and  
a processor configured to retrieve from the memory a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier and to activate the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

- a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;
- b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and
- c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.

32. (Withdrawn) A computer program product for processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:  
receiving the user interface command; and  
processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment.
33. (Withdrawn) A system for processing a user interface command in an instant

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messaging application comprising:  
an interface configured to receive the user interface command; and  
a processor configured to process the user interface command in a manner specified  
by a predetermined instant messaging environment.

34. (New) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects how said transmitting instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content.

35. (New) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects the appearance of the history window on said transmitting instant messaging application.

36. (New) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects a definition of a user interface command processed by said transmitting instant messaging application.